gement Board and any complaint about short supplies taken up by the representatives of the States concerned and is sorted out in the Board. The Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan are aware of this position.

Palana Lignite project

1172. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current status of the Palana Lignite project;

(b) what was the original date of its completion and the cost estimate of the project; and

(c) what is the revised cost estimate and the expected date for the completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) As per the Memorandum of Understanding entered into with the Government of Rajasthan, Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been entrusted with the development of an integrated mining-cum-power project in the Central sector based on lignite deposits in Palana-Barsinghsar area of Bikaner district of Rajasthan.

N.L.C. is engaged in the preparation of a feasibility report for the project. The cost estimate would be known only after the feasibility report is prepared. The project is expected to yield benefits in the Eighth Plan period.

Post and Telegraph services in Gujarat

1173. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Gujarat which do not have postal and telegraph facilities as on the 31st January, 1988 and by when these villages are likely to be provided with these facilities;

(b) what is the number of district headquarters in Gujarat which are having STD facility;

(c) by when all the district headquarters of Gujarat are likely to be provided with STD facility; and

(d) how many post and telegraph offices were opened in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) *Postal facilities*. There are in all 18,210 villages in Gujarat and Post Offices at present exist in 7652 villages. However, all the remaining 10,558 villages also are given mail delivery facility and in 5,842 of them letter boxes have also been provided. The policy envisaged is to extend postal facilities to all gram panchayats by 31-3-1990.

Telegraph facilities: 16,904 villages in Gujarat do not have telegraph facility as on 31-1-1988. There is no policy to provide all villages with telegraph facility at present.

(b) At present, 15 district headquarters are having STD facility.

(c) Plans for the introduction of STD in the remaining four district headquarters are as follows:

District Headquarter	Proposed year of introduction of STD
Ahwa	1988-89
Bharuch	1989-90
Bhuj	1990-91
Himatnagar	1991-92

(d) The number of post offices/telegraph offices opened during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Post Offices	Telegraph Offices
1984-85	1	16
1985-86	Nil	34
1986-87	Nil	Nil